



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Governor's Bill No. 979

LCO No. 4058



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:

Request of the Governor Pursuant
to Joint Rule 9

***AN ACT PROMOTING ENERGY AFFORDABILITY, ENERGY
EFFICIENCY AND GREEN CITIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) In order to secure cost-
2 effective resources and provide more reliable electric service for the
3 benefit of the state's electric ratepayers, to make reasonable further
4 progress toward the greenhouse gas emissions reduction levels set out
5 in section 22a-200a of the general statutes and to meet the state's energy
6 and environmental goals and policies established in the Integrated
7 Resources Plan, pursuant to section 16a-3a of the general statutes and
8 the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, pursuant to section 16a-3d of the
9 general statutes, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental
10 Protection, in consultation with the procurement manager identified in
11 subsection (l) of section 16-2 of the general statutes, the Office of
12 Consumer Counsel and the Attorney General, may, in coordination
13 with other states in the control area of the regional independent system
14 operator, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, or on behalf
15 of Connecticut alone, issue multiple solicitations for long-term contracts

16 from providers of resources described in subsection (b) of this section.

17 (b) In any solicitation issued pursuant to this subsection, the
18 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may seek
19 proposals from providers of transmission resources and associated
20 transmission infrastructure, including, but not limited to, transmission
21 infrastructure for offshore wind resources, provided such transmission
22 resources are located in or interconnect to the control area of the regional
23 independent system operator or the control area of an adjacent regional
24 independent system operator. Proposals under this subsection shall not
25 have a contract term exceeding forty years.

26 (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in
27 consultation with the procurement manager identified in subsection (l)
28 of section 16-2 of the general statutes, the Office of Consumer Counsel
29 and the Attorney General shall evaluate project proposals received
30 under any solicitation issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this section
31 based on factors, including, but not limited to, (1) improvements to the
32 reliability of the electric system, including during winter peak demand;
33 (2) fuel diversity; (3) the extent to which the proposal contributes to
34 meeting the requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and
35 improve air quality in accordance with sections 16-245a, 22a-174 and
36 22a-200a of the general statutes; (4) whether the proposal is in the best
37 interest of ratepayers because it obviates the need for future reliability
38 upgrades; and (5) whether the proposal is aligned with the policy goals
39 outlined in the Integrated Resources Plan, pursuant to section 16a-3a of
40 the general statutes, and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, pursuant
41 to section 16a-3d of the general statutes, including, but not limited to,
42 environmental impacts. In conducting such evaluation, the
43 commissioner, in coordination with the Commissioner of Economic
44 Development, may consider the extent to which project proposals
45 provide economic benefits for the state.

46 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
47 direct the electric distribution companies to enter into agreements with
48 transmission resources and associated transmission infrastructure, from

49 proposals selected pursuant to this section, for periods of not more than
50 forty years on behalf of all customers of the state's electric distribution
51 companies.

52 (e) Any agreement entered into pursuant to this section shall be
53 subject to review and approval by the Public Utilities Regulatory
54 Authority, provided such review shall be completed not later than one
55 hundred twenty days after the authority receives the agreement. The
56 authority shall approve agreements if it determines (1) the agreement
57 provides for the delivery of adequate and reliable products and services,
58 for which there is a clear public need, at a just and reasonable price, (2)
59 the agreement is prudent and cost effective, and (3) any provider of
60 transmission resources under the agreement has the technical, financial
61 and managerial capabilities to perform pursuant to such agreement. The
62 net costs of any such agreement, including costs incurred by the electric
63 distribution companies under the agreement and reasonable costs
64 incurred by the electric distribution companies in connection with the
65 agreement, shall be recovered through a fully reconciling component of
66 electric rates for all customers of electric distribution companies. Any
67 net revenues from the sale of products purchased in accordance with
68 long-term contracts entered into pursuant to this section shall be
69 credited to customers through the same fully reconciling rate
70 component for all customers of the contracting electric distribution
71 company. The commissioner may hire consultants with expertise in
72 quantitative modeling of electric and gas markets to assist in
73 implementing this section, including, but not limited to, the evaluation
74 of proposals submitted pursuant to this section. All reasonable costs
75 associated with the commissioner's solicitation and review of proposals
76 pursuant to this section shall be recoverable through the same fully
77 reconciling rate component for all customers of the electric distribution
78 companies.

79 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section,
80 "Connecticut home energy label" or "label" means a label developed by
81 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection that
82 provides a score regarding a residence's energy efficiency and is

83 consistent with all nationally recognized ratings, including the United
84 States Department of Energy Home Energy score, the Home Energy
85 Rating System Index score and the Energy Star score.

86 (b) (1) In developing the Connecticut home energy label, the
87 commissioner shall consider factors, including, but not limited to, (A)
88 the cost effectiveness of the labeling process, (B) the ability of a
89 residence's owner to conduct the labeling process and generate a label
90 for the residence without outside or professional assistance, (C) the
91 clarity of the information the label provides regarding the residence's
92 estimated energy efficiency, (D) the standardization of the label, (E) the
93 ability of the label to integrate information generated by existing
94 nationally recognized ratings, and (F) the accuracy and reliability of the
95 label.

96 (2) In developing the label, the commissioner shall provide an
97 opportunity for public comment.

98 (c) (1) Any landlord, upon (A) listing any dwelling unit for rent
99 through a multiple listing service, real estate brokers' organization or
100 other service, organization or facility related to the business of selling or
101 renting dwelling units, including private listing services, or (B) offering
102 any dwelling unit for rent through a means other than those specified in
103 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, shall provide a Connecticut home
104 energy label, with an electronic link to the Internet web site that contains
105 the report for such Connecticut home energy label for the dwelling unit,
106 to any prospective tenant at the tenant's request or prior to the tenant's
107 signing of a lease for the dwelling unit. For dwelling units listed
108 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the landlord shall
109 provide the Connecticut home energy label and electronic link through
110 the service, organization or facility through which the landlord lists the
111 dwelling unit.

112 (2) The provisions of this section shall apply: (A) On and after (i) July
113 1, 2024, or (ii) thirty days after the commissioner's public release of the
114 Connecticut home energy label, whichever is later, to any municipality

115 that contains a census tract in which the average percentage of gross
116 household income spent on home heating and electricity costs is not less
117 than ten per cent; (B) on or after July 1, 2025, to any municipality that
118 contains a census tract in which the average percentage of gross
119 household income spent on home heating and electricity costs is not less
120 than six per cent; (C) on or after July 1, 2026, to any municipality
121 containing a census tract in which the average percentage of gross
122 household income spent on home heating and electricity costs is not less
123 than four per cent; and (D) on or after July 1, 2027, to all municipalities.

124 (3) The Commissioners of Housing and Energy and Environmental
125 Protection shall, not later than March first of each year, publish on the
126 Departments of Housing's and Energy and Environmental Protection's
127 Internet web sites a list of municipalities that meet the criteria set forth
128 in subdivision (2) of this subsection according to the Low-Income
129 Energy Affordability Data Tool maintained by the United States
130 Department of Energy, or a successor tool.

131 (4) The provisions of this section shall not apply to: (A) The rental of
132 any dwelling unit for which rent payments include a fixed amount for
133 all charges for electricity, natural gas or heating fuel, as defined in
134 section 16a-23m of the general statutes; (B) any dwelling unit in a
135 building that was constructed on or after January 1, 2000; or (C) on or
136 before July 1, 2027, any dwelling unit in any building occupied by the
137 landlord of such building as a residence.

138 (d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 51-164p of the
139 general statutes, any municipality subject to the provisions of this
140 section may, by ordinance, establish a civil penalty payable to such
141 municipality for a violation of this section, provided such civil penalty
142 shall not exceed five hundred dollars for a first violation and one
143 thousand dollars for any subsequent violation.

144 (2) Any person assessed any civil penalty under subdivision (1) of
145 this subsection may appeal such assessment to the Superior Court not
146 later than thirty days after the mailing date of the notice of such

147 assessment by filing a petition to reopen the assessment, together with
148 an entry fee equal to the entry fee for a small claims case under section
149 52-259 of the general statutes, at the Superior Court facility designated
150 by the Chief Court Administrator. Such petition shall entitle such person
151 to a hearing under the rules of the judges of the Superior Court.

152 (3) The remedies in this subsection shall be in addition to any other
153 remedies available at law, or in equity, to any person. This section shall
154 not be construed to limit or restrict the authority of any state or local
155 housing or health code enforcement agency.

156 Sec. 3. Section 47a-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
157 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2024*):

158 As used in this chapter and sections 47a-21, 47a-23 to 47a-23c,
159 inclusive, 47a-26a to 47a-26g, inclusive, 47a-35 to 47a-35b, inclusive, 47a-
160 41a, 47a-43, [and] 47a-46 and [section] 47a-7b and section 2 of this act:

161 (a) "Action" includes recoupment, counterclaim, set-off, cause of
162 action and any other proceeding in which rights are determined,
163 including an action for possession.

164 (b) "Building and housing codes" include any law, ordinance or
165 governmental regulation concerning fitness for habitation or the
166 construction, maintenance, operation, occupancy, use or appearance of
167 any premises or dwelling unit.

168 (c) "Dwelling unit" means any house or building, or portion thereof,
169 which is occupied, is designed to be occupied, or is rented, leased or
170 hired out to be occupied, as a home or residence of one or more persons.

171 (d) "Landlord" means the owner, lessor or sublessor of the dwelling
172 unit, the building of which it is a part or the premises.

173 (e) "Owner" means one or more persons, jointly or severally, in whom
174 is vested (1) all or part of the legal title to property, or (2) all or part of
175 the beneficial ownership and a right to present use and enjoyment of the
176 premises and includes a mortgagee in possession.

177 (f) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability
178 company, the state or any political subdivision thereof, or agency,
179 business trust, estate, trust, partnership or association, two or more
180 persons having a joint or common interest, and any other legal or
181 commercial entity.

182 (g) "Premises" means a dwelling unit and the structure of which it is
183 a part and facilities and appurtenances therein and grounds, areas and
184 facilities held out for the use of tenants generally or whose use is
185 promised to the tenant.

186 (h) "Rent" means all periodic payments to be made to the landlord
187 under the rental agreement.

188 (i) "Rental agreement" means all agreements, written or oral, and
189 valid rules and regulations adopted under section 47a-9 or subsection
190 (d) of section 21-70 embodying the terms and conditions concerning the
191 use and occupancy of a dwelling unit or premises.

192 (j) "Roomer" means a person occupying a dwelling unit, which unit
193 does not include a refrigerator, stove, kitchen sink, toilet and shower or
194 bathtub and one or more of these facilities are used in common by other
195 occupants in the structure.

196 (k) "Single-family residence" means a structure maintained and used
197 as a single dwelling unit. Notwithstanding that a dwelling unit shares
198 one or more walls with another dwelling unit or has a common parking
199 facility, it is a single-family residence if it has direct access to a street or
200 thoroughfare and does not share heating facilities, hot water equipment
201 or any other essential facility or service with any other dwelling unit.

202 (l) "Tenant" means the lessee, sublessee or person entitled under a
203 rental agreement to occupy a dwelling unit or premises to the exclusion
204 of others or as is otherwise defined by law.

205 (m) "Tenement house" means any house or building, or portion
206 thereof, which is rented, leased or hired out to be occupied, or is

207 arranged or designed to be occupied, or is occupied, as the home or
208 residence of three or more families, living independently of each other,
209 and doing their cooking upon the premises, and having a common right
210 in the halls, stairways or yards.

211 Sec. 4. Section 29-253 of the general statutes is repealed and the
212 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

213 (a) The State Building Code, including any amendment to said code
214 adopted by the State Building Inspector and Codes and Standards
215 Committee, shall be the building code for all towns, cities and boroughs,
216 except as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

217 (b) Nothing in this section shall prevent any town, city or borough
218 from adopting an ordinance governing the demolition of buildings
219 deemed to be unsafe. As used in this subsection, "unsafe building"
220 means a building that constitutes a fire hazard or is otherwise
221 dangerous to human life or the public welfare.

222 (c) (1) Any town, city or borough may, through its legislative body,
223 adopt a building code for residential or commercial buildings that
224 requires compliance with the zero energy residential or commercial
225 building provisions of the International Energy Conservation Code, or
226 a successor code.

227 (2) Any town, city or borough that adopts or revises a building code
228 pursuant to this subsection shall inform the State Building Inspector and
229 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection of such
230 adoption or revision.

231 Sec. 5. Section 20-334d of the general statutes is repealed and the
232 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

233 (a) As used in this section:

234 (1) "Accredited continuing professional education" means any
235 education of an electrician or plumber that is: (A) [designed] Designed
236 to maintain professional competence in the practice, pursuit and

237 standards of electrical work or plumbing and piping work; [L] (B)
238 approved by the commissioner; [L] and (C) provided (i) by an agency,
239 institution or organization that has been approved by the commissioner,
240 and (ii) in-person or through an online technology platform that
241 includes real-time video with audio, requires participants to
242 periodically confirm their active engagement during the educational
243 training session and enables participants to interact with instructors in
244 real time during the entire educational training session;

245 (2) "Certificate of continuing education" means a document that; (A)
246 [an] An agency, institution or organization that has been approved by
247 the commissioner and offers accredited continuing professional
248 education issues to an electrician or plumber; [L] (B) certifies that an
249 electrician or plumber has satisfactorily completed a specified number
250 of continuing education hours; [L] and (C) bears the (i) name of such
251 agency, institution or organization, (ii) title of the program, (iii) dates
252 during which the program was conducted, (iv) number of continuing
253 education hours satisfactorily completed, and (v) signature of the
254 director of such agency, institution or organization or of such director's
255 authorized agent; and

256 (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer
257 Protection.

258 (b) (1) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the
259 Electrical Work Board established pursuant to subsection (b) of section
260 20-331, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to: [(1)]
261 (A) Establish additional requirements for accredited continuing
262 professional education for electricians licensed pursuant to sections 20-
263 330 to 20-341, inclusive; [(2)] (B) establish qualifying criteria for
264 accredited continuing professional education programs and establish
265 qualifying criteria for acceptable certificates of continuing professional
266 education; and [(3)] (C) provide for the waiver of required accredited
267 continuing professional education for electricians for good cause. Such
268 regulations shall require not less than four hours per year of accredited
269 continuing professional education for such electricians, except upon

270 request of the Electrical Work Board, the commissioner may increase
271 such hours to a maximum of seven hours.

272 (2) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the Electrical
273 Work Board established pursuant to subsection (b) of section 20-331,
274 shall amend the regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
275 subsection to provide that: (A) Accredited continuing professional
276 education programs for electricians shall include, but need not be
277 limited to, training in the mechanics and application of thermal space
278 and water heating systems other than electric resistance and fossil fuel
279 combustion systems; and (B) an electrician shall be required to complete
280 the continuing professional education described in subparagraph (A) of
281 this subdivision not later than (i) two years after the electrician obtains
282 a license pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-341, inclusive, or (ii) not later
283 than two years after the regulations amended pursuant to this
284 subdivision are finalized, if the electrician obtains a license pursuant to
285 sections 20-330 to 20-341, inclusive, on or before September 30, 2023. The
286 commissioner shall maintain on the Department of Consumer
287 Protection's web site a list of manufacturer-sponsored certification
288 programs for thermal space and water heating systems other than
289 electric resistance and fossil fuel combustion systems, which shall be
290 considered accredited continuing professional education programs
291 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision.

292 (c) (1) (A) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the
293 Plumbing and Piping Work Board established pursuant to subsection
294 (d) of section 20-331, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
295 54, to: [(1)] (i) Establish additional requirements for accredited
296 continuing professional education programs for plumbers licensed
297 pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-341, inclusive, which regulations shall
298 require not more than a total of seven hours of accredited continuing
299 professional education every two years, except in the event of significant
300 changes to the building code, as approved by the International Code
301 Council, that relate to plumbing, the commissioner, at such
302 commissioner's discretion, may require more than a total of seven hours
303 of accredited continuing professional education every two years; [(2)]

304 (ii) establish qualifying criteria for accredited continuing professional
305 education programs and establish qualifying criteria for acceptable
306 certificates of continuing professional education; and [(3)] (iii) provide
307 for the waiver of required accredited continuing professional education
308 for plumbers for good cause.

309 (B) The commissioner, with the advice and assistance of the Plumbing
310 and Piping Work Board established pursuant to subsection (d) of section
311 20-331, shall amend the regulations adopted pursuant to subparagraph
312 (A) of this subdivision to provide that: (i) Accredited continuing
313 professional education programs for plumbers shall include, but need
314 not be limited to, training in the mechanics and application of thermal
315 space and water heating systems other than electric resistance and fossil
316 fuel combustion systems; and (ii) a plumber shall be required to
317 complete the continuing professional education described in
318 subparagraph (B)(i) of this subdivision not later than (I) two years after
319 the plumber obtains a license pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-341,
320 inclusive, or (II) not later than two years after the regulations amended
321 pursuant to this subparagraph are finalized, if the plumber obtains a
322 license pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-341, inclusive, on or before
323 September 30, 2023. The commissioner shall maintain on the
324 Department of Consumer Protection's web site a list of manufacturer-
325 sponsored certification programs for thermal space and water heating
326 systems other than electric resistance and fossil fuel combustion
327 systems, which shall be considered accredited continuing professional
328 education programs pursuant to subparagraph (B)(i) of this subdivision.

329 [(d)] (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of [subsection (c) of this
330 section] this subsection, any person who has been issued a P-6, P-7, W-
331 8 or W-9 license pursuant to section 20-334a and the regulations of
332 Connecticut state agencies shall not be required to meet the continuing
333 education requirements established pursuant to [subsection (c) of this
334 section] this subsection.

335 [(e)] (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to [(d)] (c),
336 inclusive, of this section, all accredited continuing professional

337 education offered under the provisions of this section shall: (1) Limit
338 class size to (A) fifty attendees if such accredited continuing professional
339 education is offered in-person, or (B) twenty-five attendees if such
340 accredited continuing professional education is offered through an
341 online technology platform; (2) not be offered or held at the place of
342 business of a licensed plumbing contractor if such accredited continuing
343 professional education is for plumbers and offered in-person; and (3)
344 not be offered or held at the place of business of a licensed electrical
345 contractor if such accredited continuing professional education is for
346 electricians and offered in-person. A provider of an accredited
347 continuing professional education course shall retain an audio-visual
348 recording of such course for a period of not less than thirty days after
349 completion of such course. Recordings shall be made available to the
350 department upon the department's request for such recordings.

351 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) The commissioner, with
352 the advice and assistance of the Heating, Piping, Cooling and Sheet
353 Metal Work Board established pursuant to subsection (c) of section 20-
354 331 of the general statutes, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with
355 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to: (1) Establish a one-time
356 requirement for heating and cooling professionals licensed pursuant to
357 sections 20-330 to 20-341, inclusive, of the general statutes to participate
358 in an accredited education program; (2) establish qualifying criteria for
359 such accredited education programs and establish qualifying criteria for
360 acceptable certificates of education; and (3) provide for the waiver of
361 such requirement for such licensed heating and cooling professionals
362 for good cause. The commissioner shall maintain on the Department of
363 Consumer Protection's web site a list of manufacturer-sponsored
364 certification programs for thermal space and water heating systems
365 other than electric resistance and fossil fuel combustion systems, which
366 shall be considered accredited education programs pursuant to
367 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

368 (b) The regulations established pursuant to subsection (a) of this
369 section shall include, but need not be limited to, training in the
370 mechanics and application of thermal space and water heating systems

371 other than electric resistance and fossil fuel combustion systems, which
 372 a heating and cooling professional licensed pursuant to sections 20-330
 373 to 20-341, inclusive, of the general statutes shall be required to complete
 374 (1) not later than two years after the heating and cooling professional
 375 obtains a license pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-341, inclusive, of the
 376 general statutes, or (2) not later than two years after the regulations
 377 adopted pursuant to this section are finalized, if the heating and cooling
 378 professional obtains a license pursuant to sections 20-330 to 20-341,
 379 inclusive, of the general statutes on or before September 30, 2023.

380 Sec. 7. Section 23-8 of the general statutes is amended by adding
 381 subsection (f) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

382 (NEW) (f) In order to ensure the benefits of open space and tree cover
 383 are enjoyed equitably by residents of the state, it shall be the goal of the
 384 state to increase the percentage of urban areas covered by tree canopy,
 385 not later than January 1, 2024, to a level of five per cent of the total area
 386 of such urban areas. For purposes of this subsection, "urban areas"
 387 means the total area of environmental justice communities, as defined
 388 in section 22a-20a, in the state.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2024</i>	47a-1
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	29-253
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	20-334d
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	23-8(f)

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]